12/22/68

Dear Paul,

Enclosed herewith is a more legible copy of Ex 1153 (22H187), the New Orleans SS report on the Rush film, with a different focus in my mind. It also relates to the reported observations and opinions of Mrs. John Tarsikes of San Antonio. My opinions are set forth in the also-enclosed memorandum on this and a letter to Allen Dale of WOAI. The enclosed SS Control 109 does not exhaust the files that should be available. I asked for but did not get all. I shall be renewing the request, with the specification coming from Benavides and Rice and their reports. I'll send you whatever I get when I do.

I think it would be helpful and just might yield a clue were you to note what Mrs. Tarsikes says she saw in the New Orleans footage and ask Rush if he recalls any such scene, or whether he has any recollection indicating whether or not it was or could have been in the outtakes.

This should be possible by phone. You can read him what the reports say and he can comment. If you tape it, you'll have a good account of what he says.

I have a call in to Sprague. He has not returned it. He may recall whether such footage is included in the Library of Congress material. I now regret not having taken the time to go into it myself. Once I discovered it was there, I turned it over to Dick. He spent about two hours there. We then planned to go there together, but it hasn't happened. I do not have a copy of the NBC book. If you have it, would you please check and see if they refer to any such footage on the net? It might provide us with a clue. Remember, the book was composed when the line was set. I doubt the script would include a description of what Mrs. T says she saw if the soundtrack and film support her. But the raw footage might have it. At least, we might be able to reach a definitive answer and not leave this hanging.

In talking to a photographer, it might be a good idea, if he does not seize upon it, to wait until the end and just before you finish talking to him ask him about the cauliflower ear. Photographers note individual characteristics more readily than others, for they seek such things in their pictures. It might stir a recollection.

Sincerely yours,

Harold Weisberg